



Namaz-e-Janaza of the Shuhada, offered in Quetta Garrison

The funeral was attended by General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Federal Minister of Interior, Governor and Chief Minister Balochistan, Provincial Ministers and a large number of military and civilian officials.



DPM Dar offers prayers at Masjid-e-Nabvi

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday visited the holy city of Madinah and offered prayers at Masjid-e-Nabwi. The deputy prime minister is on his official visit to Saudi Arabia to attend the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers meeting. He prayed for peace, unity, and prosperity for the Muslim Ummah, according to a statement issued by the office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

After blast

QUETTA: Police officers search for evidence amid the debris after a bomb blast at a railway station in Quetta, Pakistan on Saturday.



Photo: Reuters

PM visits Cascade Police Service Center



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday visited the "Cascade" Police Service Center, which was established to facilitate the diplomatic community in the diplomatic enclave.

During his visit, he commended the establishment of a modern service center equipped with advanced facilities for diplomats and foreign nationals.

The prime minister appreciated Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's initiative for the establishment of the police service center.

"Providing all possible facilities to the diplomatic community is our priority," the prime minister added.

He also praised the establishment of the Cascade Service Center in Islamabad, designed to meet international standards and the demands of modern times.

At the service center, the diplomatic community and foreign nationals will have access to services such as issuance and renewal of driving licenses, character certificates, general police verification, reporting of lost items, tenant registration, foreigner registration, registration of domestic workers, volunteer registration, vehicle verification, and obtaining copies of FIRs.

The Inspector General of Islamabad Police briefed the Prime Minister on the facilities being provided to the diplomatic community and foreign nationals.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, as well as Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, were also present

Powerful explosion near Quetta railway station leaves 27 dead, more than 50 injured

Bureau Report

QUETTA: A powerful explosion rocked the area near the railway station in Quetta, resulting in the deaths of 27 individuals and injuring more than 50 others, including both men and women.

The blast prompted an immediate response from rescue teams and a heavy deployment of security forces. Emergency services transported the injured to nearby hospitals for treatment.

Pools of blood and ripped backpacks were seen at the scene, where a large metal sheet protecting passengers from the elements had been blown off.

According to railway authorities, the Jaffar Express was scheduled to depart for Peshawar at 9am. The train had not yet arrived at the platform when an explosion occurred near the ticket office at the railway station.

Quetta's Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Muhammad Baloch stated that the explosion "appears to be a suicide attack."

Acting President, PM strongly condemn Quetta Railway Station blast

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday strongly condemned a blast near Quetta Railway Station.

The acting president and prime minister prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls and for the bereaved families to bear the losses with fortitude.

The acting president expressed his deep grief over loss of precious lives, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

He said that terrorists were the enemies of humanity who targeted innocent people and reiterated the resolve of taking all possible measures to efface terrorism.

The prime minister reiterated that the explosion occurred while a large number of passengers were present on the platform waiting



that terrorists inflicting harm on the lives and properties of innocent people would have to pay the heavy price, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The government and security forces were fully active to eliminate terrorism, he added.

The prime minister sought an inquiry report from Balochistan government over the incident.

The acting president and the prime minister also directed for provision of treatment to injured on property basis.

that police and security forces have cordoned off the area.

At Quetta station, police said they were working to determine the cause of the blast. "When we reached here, initially it appeared that some explosive had perhaps been hidden or left in the luggage. But now we think it may be a suicide bomber," Baloch said.

Firefighters, rescuers and passengers were working through abandoned luggage on the platform, guarded by heavily armed members of the security forces.

At the hospital, Mohammed Irfan had to identify two of his relatives killed in the bombing.

"As we woke up we found out there was an explosion," he said.

"Then we discovered that my uncle and another relative had gone to have tea at the station."

Mohammed Oumer, one of the casualties, said he went to the station to get a train home to his village. "But just as we arrived, there was the explosion and I found myself wounded and in

US Mission condemns terrorist attack in Quetta

ISLAMABAD: The United States (US) Mission to Pakistan on Saturday strongly condemned the terrorist attack at a railway station in Quetta.

In a statement, the US Mission said, "We extend our deepest condolences to the victims and their families. We will continue to stand with Pakistan in preventing such acts of terrorism against civilians and soldiers."

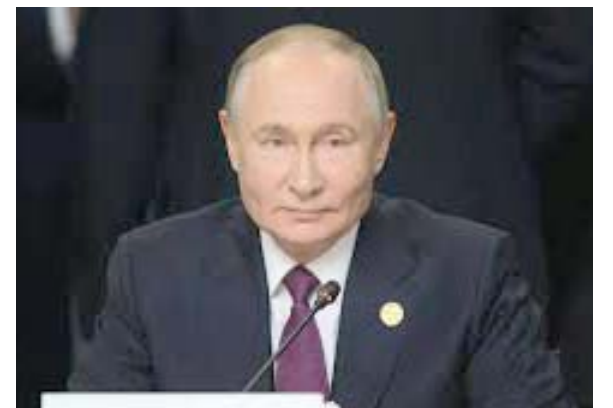
hospital," he told AFP.

Despite frequent attacks in Balochistan the toll of Saturday's blast was particularly high for the southwestern province, which borders Afghanistan and Iran.

The Associated Press of Pakistan cited railway officials as saying the blast happened near

Continued on Page 8

Putin extends condolences to Pakistan following Quetta terror attack



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday conveyed his condolences to President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif following a devastating terrorist attack at the Quetta Railway Station.

In a letter, President Putin expressed deep sorrow over the tragedy, which claimed the lives of several civilians, including women and children, and left many others injured.

He strongly condemned the "barbaric crime," calling for justice for those responsible. He underscored Russia's solidarity with Pakistan in the fight against terrorism, reaffirming Russia's commitment to close cooperation with Pakistani authorities in combatting extremism and protecting citizens from violent acts.

"We are determined to continue close cooperation with our Pakistani partners against all forms and manifestations of terrorism," Putin wrote.

He expressed Russia's determination to assist in the fight against such heinous crimes and hoped that the master-

minds behind the attack would be appropriately punished.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim conveyed his heartfelt condolence and sympathies over the incident.

"On behalf of Malaysia, I extend our deepest condolences to the people of Pakistan, who mourn this senseless and devastating loss," the Malaysian PM wrote on X.

He emphasized these acts of utter ruthlessness and violence, targeting both civilians and security personnel, were stark reminders of the relentless threats posed by extremism and ideological rigidity-forces that undermine progress and peace in Muslim societies.

"Malaysia stands firmly in solidarity with the government of Pakistan in its steadfast fight against terrorism," he added.

The government of Türkiye, condemning the terrorist attack in strongest words, extended condolences to the people of Pakistan and wished a speedy recovery to those injured.

"We will continue to support Pakistan in its fight against terrorism," the Turkish ministry of foreign minister said in a letter.

Indian intelligence officials harassing noted Muslim journalist Rana Ayyub: CPJ

News Desk

NEW YORK: The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), an independent watchdog body, says it is "highly concerned" after Indian investigative journalist Rana Ayyub's was repeatedly questioned by intelligence personnel during a reporting trip in the northeastern state of Manipur in early October, and called for end to her harassment.

CPJ said that it received the information about Ms. Ayyub, an outspoken critic of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, from three people familiar with the situation who spoke on condition of anonymity, citing fear of official retaliation. It said Ms. Ayyub's personal number was leaked online and she received hundreds of hostile calls.

"The relentless targeting of Rana Ayyub, one of India's most prominent journalists, is shameful," CPJ Asia Programme Coordinator Beh Lih Yi, said in a statement.

Iran condemns terrorist blast in Quetta Pakistan

IRNA

TEHRAN: The Spokesperson for Iran's Foreign Ministry Esmacil Baghaei has strongly slammed the terrorist explosion that occurred on Saturday morning at the railway station in Pakistan's Quetta.

The Spokesperson for Iran's Foreign Ministry Esmacil Baghaei has strongly slammed the terrorist explosion that occurred on Saturday morning at the railway station in Pakistan's Quetta.

Expressing deep sympathy with the families of the victims and survivors of the tragic incident, Baghaei conveyed the condolences of the Iranian government and people to the friendly and neighboring nation and government of Pakistan.

He emphasized that such terrorist acts violate all legal and human rights principles as well as humanitarian standards, and are completely unjustifiable.

Baghaei highlighted the Islamic Republic of Iran's principled stance on the strong condemnation of all forms of terrorism and violent extremism.

The spokesperson stated that eradicating the malevolent phenomenon requires enhanced coordination and cooperation among all countries at bilateral, regional, and international levels.

PM Shehbaz announces three-month electricity relief package for winter season

Commerce Desk

Prime Minister Shehbaz Shari has announced a three-month electricity relief package - "Bijli Sahulat" package - for consumers in the winter season when the consumption of the basic utility is very low amid high per unit cost.

"The government has decided to provide an electricity relief package on the additional consumption of power for the three months of winter, December, January, and February," he said while addressing an event to honour poet Allama Iqbal on the eve of his birth anniversary.

Under the plan, the premier said that a "desirable" reduction is being made in the electricity prices. The electricity relief package would be implemented in "bills from December 2024 to February 2025."

A flat rate of Rs26.07 per unit would be offered for any additional electricity to the household consumers, the premier said and added: "The household consumers will save from Rs11.42 per unit to Rs26 per unit."

PM Shehbaz added that there are different slabs for electricity consumers.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq expresses grief over the death of late Maulvi Muhammad Ahmed

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Former Chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference and senior Hurriyat leader Mirwaiz Maulvi Umar Farooq expressed grief over the death of late Maulvi Muhammad Ahmed Sahib on the occasion of Friday prayers at Jamia Masjid Srinagar and said that everyone has tasted death. Maulvi Muhammad Ahmed Sahib's struggle and services for the upliftment of religion will always be remembered. Mirwaiz said that Maulvi Muhammad Ahmed Sahib taught the Holy Quran from door to door. He made people savour the translation and interpretation of the Holy Quran.



Mirwaiz Maulvi Umar Farooq condemned the occupation administration and said that these oppressors and oppressors and the inhuman administration did not allow the funeral prayers to be offered in absentia. This was not a political issue. Nor was it to make any statement against anyone. He further said that our family faced many hardships and difficult situations since 1947. The late Muhajir-emigrant Mirwaiz Muhammad Yousuf Shah was exiled. He wanted to return to Kashmir, but the occupying administration set humiliating conditions, which the late Mirwaiz Maulvi Muhammad Yousuf Shah rejected and adopted a life of poverty, exile, and emigration he added.

Muslim Conference honors Allama Muhammad Iqbal on 147th birth anniversary



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said in his message that today the entire nation is celebrating the 147th birth anniversary of the poet of the East, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal, with great devotion and respect. He says that Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal made the youth of the subcontinent aware of the eternal sacrifices of their ancestors, their valuable services in every field of the world, their greatness, progressiveness and the lost legacy of rare thought. The former Prime Minister has further said that Iqbal described the youth of the nation as falcons with the qualities of courage, self-confidence, bravery and dervishness. Iqbal exhorted the youth of the whole world, especially the subcontinent, to follow the path of knowledge and research, innovation and individual and social evolution, keeping in mind the glorious past of Muslims, and thus created a new enthusiasm and enthusiasm to conquer the world and set a noose on the stars. He also says that on this day we have to make a commitment. I will work day and night to achieve the Pakistan envisioned by Iqbal. I have full confidence in our nation, especially the youth, that they will live up to Iqbal's hopes.

Lok Mela

ISLAMABAD: Visitors are busy in shopping during Art and Craft Bazaar organized by Behbud, at Pak China Center, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party protests Indus River canal project

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi



HYDERABAD: The Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party (STP) organized a protest sit-in at the Hatri Bypass in Hyderabad against the canal construction project on the Indus River. The protest, which lasted over five hours, was led by STP Chairman Dr. Qadir Magasi. A large number of STP workers, including men, women, and children, participated in the protest, which brought all highway traffic to a standstill, creating long queues of vehicles on both sides of the road. Thousands of demonstrators raised strong slogans against the canal project on the Indus River.

During his address at the sit-in, Dr. Qadir Magasi stated that "The Indus River is the lifeline of Sindh, and blocking its flow is akin to the massacre of 60 million people, turning Sindh into a mass grave. As long as even one Sindh is alive, no one will be allowed to build any canal or dam on the Indus River." Dr. Magasi reminded that former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had to withdraw his announcement of the Kalabagh Dam after fierce opposition across Sindh, from protests to negotiations. General Musharraf also had similar ambitions, but the Sindh people prevented him from constructing the dam. Therefore, he advised Shehbaz Sharif to learn from past experiences.

He further warned that if the rulers do not change their stance, the consequences will be harmful for the entire country. He questioned why the PPP, if it is not involved in anti-Sindh projects, does not negotiate with the federal government, which depends on its support. Dr. Magasi declared that this protest movement will continue until the canal project is canceled, and announced that on November 20, a sit-in will be held at the Sakrand Bypass, followed by a massive gathering on November 24 in front of the Governor's House in Karachi to send a message to the federal government to end conspiracies against Sindh. The protest was also addressed by Nisar Kiyayo, Hot Khan Gadehi, Dr. Abdul Hameed Memon, Qadir Channa, Dr. Ahmed Nounari, and Jan Muhammad Junejo.

Three killed in different incidents

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Three persons were killed in three different incidents in district Attock on Saturday, police and rescue sources said.

In the first tragic incident, two motorcyclists fell victim to poor road safety measures on Pindigheb-Talagang road near Chalian chowk in the limits of Pindi Gheb police station. Sources said that 29 years old Kamran Zahoor along with his colleague 38 years old Asad Mehmood was going for duty at local oil field on his motorcycle when they fell into a ditch for a drainage line dug by the contractor resultantly they died on the spot. Later rescue 1122 retrieved their bodies and shifted to tehsil headquarters hospital. Police while quoting the eye witness said that due lack of safety and warning signs led to tragic death of these motorcyclists. Separately, loss in business drives a trader to commit suicide in Dilawarabad in Four-mili area in the Rango Police station of Hazro town on Saturday. Police while quoting the family of the victim said that Raheel was in distress due to massive loss in the business. Subsequently on Saturday he locked himself in a room and shot himself. Later his body was shifted to tehsil headquarters hospital Hazro. Respective police registered separate cases and launched further investigation.

Four injured in Rawal Dam firing incidents

ISLAMABAD: The four persons sustained injuries in a firing incident at Rawal Dam in Islamabad's Secretariat police jurisdiction on Saturday evening.

The suspects fled the scene before authorities arrived, leaving the injured to be rushed to Polyclinic Hospital, where one person remains in critical condition, an official source told APP.

According to initial reports on Saturday, the incident occurred around 9 p.m. when Jalil Akhtar, a resident of Lakhwal, Islamabad, and his companions; Jahangir Akhtar, Haroon and Amir Ahmed were at the banks of Rawal Dam on their boat. Akhtar claimed that a group led by Najeeb, Haroon, Abbas and an accused named Asghar, also known as Peera, confronted them, initiating a verbal exchange of words. When questioned about their presence, Asghar allegedly responded with insults before the group opened fire, injuring all four victims.

The victims alleged that the confrontation had roots in a previous altercation, during which Fazal Khan and Asghar reportedly issued threats of violence.

Provision of safe reproductive healthcare must be a priority: Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho

Correspondent

QUETTA: "It is imperative that health facilities nationwide integrate contraceptive and post-abortion care services. Lack of counseling is a major contributor to unsafe abortions, so it's essential to educate people about contraceptive options and make them widely accessible," stated Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Minister for Health and Population Welfare, Sindh. Dr. Pechuho was speaking at the Karachi launch of the Population Council and Guttmacher Institute's report, "Safeguarding Women's Health: Trends, Inequities, and Opportunities in Pakistan's Abortion and Post-Abortion Care Services."

Dr. Pechuho highlighted the need

to significantly increase the number of community health workers, underscoring how this shortage affects the quality and reach of healthcare. She also raised concerns about the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award, suggesting that it should better incentivize health and population welfare improvements by rewarding provinces with strong health indicators with legislative representation.

Dr. Zeba Sathar, Country Director of the Population Council, stressed that while Pakistan has made healthcare advancements, ensuring women's access to family planning and safe reproductive health services remains critical. "Empowering women with access to family planning and safe healthcare services is key not only to

better health outcomes but also to broader social and economic progress," she remarked.

The event included a panel discussion, "Safeguarding Women's Health in Pakistan," moderated by Dr. Yasmeen Sabeeh Qazi, CEO of QZ Catalyst, Esteemed panelists, including Prof. Dr. Azra Ahsan, President of the Association for Mothers and Newborns (AMAN); Prof. Dr. Nusrat Shah, Vice Chancellor of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University; Dr. Bushra Liaqat, Head of Department at Kohi Goth Hospital Karachi; and Ms. Sara Malkani,

Provincial health and population welfare representatives from Sindh and Balochistan participated in a

panel moderated by Begum Shahnaz Wazir Ali, Vice Chancellor of SZABIST University, Sindh's Population Welfare Secretary, Hafiz Abdul Hadi Bullo, highlighted that promoting family planning can reduce abortion rates, while Balochistan's Population Welfare Secretary, Abdullah Khan, discussed his department's efforts to introduce child marriage restraint legislation and expand family planning services at the community level.

The event reflected a shared commitment to strengthening reproductive healthcare in Pakistan and underscored the critical role of collaboration among the government, international partners, and health organizations in addressing urgent health needs for women across the country.

More than Nine Thousands Children are Born with Congenital Lip or Palate Defects: Dr Ghulam Qadir

Shahzad Anwar

MULTAN: Dr. Ghulam Qadir Fayyaz, head of CLAPP Trust Pakistan in Multan, stated that each year in Pakistan, more than nine thousand children are born with congenital lip or palate defects.

If a cleft lip surgery is performed when the child is three months old, the face and nose alignment can be effectively restored. For children born with a cleft palate, surgery between nine to twelve months of age proves very effective.

If these surgeries are done in a timely manner, the quality of the child's voice and the palate's sound box can be significantly restored. With speech therapy, these children can lead completely normal lives, and their speech can be easily understood.

In our country, due to various superstitions and misunderstandings, many parents attribute this condition to



phenomena like eclipses or consider it a curse on the mother and the unborn child, offering themselves false solace in this way.

Complete arrangements for free medical facilities, including accommodation and meals, have been made for all the individuals. Patients from other cities, in addition to Multan,

have also been admitted to this camp. On this occasion, the President of the Multan Crescent Lions Club, Sheikh Muhammad Zahid, Chairman of the Management Committee of Al-Khidmat Hospital, Dr. Wali Muhammad Mujahid, former head of Lions Clubs International Pakistan, Muhammad Afzal Supra Chaudhry, Farukh Umar

Chaudhry, Ahmad Chughtai, Professor Amjad Ramey, Ghulam Abbas, Shakeel Bukhari, Dr. Basit Ramadan, Zaman Khan, Abdul Mohsin Shaheen, Professor Azam Hussain, Sheikh Faheem Sitar, Shaista Zeba, Shehnaaz Zulfiqar, Farhat Shafique, Dr. Rao Sharafat Ali, and members of Leo Clubs participated in the event.

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:09 am
Zohr	11:52 am
Asr	3:31 pm
Maghrib	5:09 pm
Isha	6:34 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Enquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3

Lok Mela captivates audiences with stunning display of Pakistani culture and heritage

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The ongoing Lok Mela, organized by Lok Virsa, is captivating audiences with its stunning display of Pakistani culture and heritage.

The festival, to continue till November 17, is offering a unique sneak peek into exquisite craftsmanship of hundreds of artisans from across the country.

The Lok Mela featured a diverse range of handicrafts, including intricate embroidery, block printing, lacquer work, pottery, tie-dye, doll making, Khadar, Truck Art, Wood Carving, Woodwork, Paper Mashi, Namda, Gahbah, Metalwork, Shawl Weaving, Zari Work, Beadwork, Carpets, Pottery, Ajrak, Fatar Work, and Wood craving.

Skilled artisans, such as Bibi Sakina and Mahi Husna from Balochistan, are showcasing their centuries-old Balochi embroidery techniques. Badshehzadi from Badin, Sindh, is mesmerizing visitors with her expertise in weaving.

Male artisans are equally celebrated at the Lok Mela. Muhammad Waseem Laker art from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is carrying on his family's legacy of lacquer art, while Amir Bakhsh Kahrora paka is renowned for his batting craftsmanship.

ICCI observes Iqbal Day: Nation's success lies in adherence to Iqbal's teachings

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Glowing tributes were paid to the national poet philosopher, Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal for awakening the Muslims of subcontinent for a separate homeland through his inspired poetry and political insight, on his 147th birth anniversary observed with great admiration and reverence here at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Saturday. Speakers were unanimous that Iqbal's vision for a separate homeland for Muslims in the subcontinent was a driving force behind Pakistan's creation and that his poetry, infused with spiritual and philosophical themes, continues to inspire generations.

Senior leader PML (N) and senior member Board of Governors, Idara-e-Nazria Pakistan, Raja Mohammad Zafar ul Haq said that Allama Mohammad Iqbal is an immortal symbol of Muslim empowerment and human equality.

He was the loudest and the most beautiful sound against the economic and political exploitation of the weak by the powerful. He added that his legacy continues to inspire generations, and his work remains a testament to his intellectual brilliance and poetic mastery.

Member Board of Governors, Idara-e-Nazria-e-Pakistan, Barrister Waleed Iqbal in his address highlighted the characteristics of his grandfather as a husband, father, son, friend and the most importantly as human being in the most impressive way.

President Ex-Servicemen Society Pakistan and member Board of Governors Idara-e-Nazria-e-Pakistan Gen* Abdul Qayyum said that Muslims were deprived of all kinds of rights and liberties in that era of discrimination and oppression and the mission of Hazrat Mujadad Alif Sani and great educationist Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was carried forward by Dr. Muhammad Iqbal for the socio-economic and educa-



tional emancipation of the Muslims. Vice Chairman Idara-e-Nazria-e-Pakistan, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed underlined the need to continue the mission of spreading awareness

among the people and especially the youth about Pakistan Ideology. There was need to inform the youth about the sacrifices rendered by our elders for the creation of Pakistan, he urged upon the

gathering. He also stressed the need to make Pakistan according to the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Al Jinnah and Allama Mohammad Iqbal.

Member Board of Governors, Idara-e-Nazria-e-Pakistan and Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that Iqbal Day reminds us that if we wish to progress in social, economic, and academic fields, we must integrate Iqbal's thought into our lives. Pakistan's development and stability lies in Iqbal's ideas, adding that we can only become a strong and stable nation if we embrace his message.

Senior Vice President Abdur Rehman Siddiqui and Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry in their welcome note and vote of thanks respectively underlined the need to make a pledge to build Pakistan as envisioned by Allama Iqbal for our upcoming generations.

The event was attended by ICCI Executives, Members, business community members and students in large number.

Problems

ISLAMABAD: A view of massive traffic jam at Chand Tara Road, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

DIG Ali Raza and SP Khan Zaib hold open court to address citizen's issues

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Islamabad Syed Ali Raza and Superintendent of Police (SP) Saddar Zone Khan Zaib conducted a Khuli Kacheri (open court) at sector F-10, Markaz in Shalimar Police Station jurisdiction on Saturday.

A public relation officer told APP that SDPOs, SHOs and police officers were also present at the Khuli Kacheri, where a large number of citizens participated. During the session, citizens openly expressed their concerns, while DIG Islamabad and SP Saddar Zone listened attentively and issued orders for immediate solutions, he said.

He said that Inspector General (IGP) of Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi directed Islam-



abad police officers to reach citizens through multiple platforms and resolve their concerns efficiently.

IG Rizvi issued orders to senior police officers to hold

Khuli Kacheries across the district. He has also directed all Zonal SPs to organize similar open courts in their respective areas to strengthen the police-public relationship

and provide a platform for the citizens to express their concerns freely.

Citizens also register their complaints by calling IGP Complaint Cell at 1715.

Iran embassy pays tribute to Allama Iqbal as a symbol of Iran-Pakistan ties



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Iran in Pakistan on Saturday paid homage to Allama Muhammad Iqbal, lauding him as a poet, philosopher, and visionary Muslim thinker who embodied a strong affinity for Iran.

In a message, the Embassy described Iqbal as a 'friend of Iran' who chose the Persian language to express his profound and inspiring ideas.

The Embassy highlighted Iqbal's role as a cultural bridge between Iran and Pakistan, noting that he remains a symbol of the deep, historic relationship shared by the two nations. "Iqbal's thoughts on Islamic awakening, unity, self-realization, freedom, and justice continue to resonate with Muslims worldwide, even decades after his passing," the statement read.

In celebration of Iqbal's birthday, the Iranian Embassy extended its congratulations to the people and government of Pakistan, as well as admirers of Iqbal's philosophy.

Pakistan Mountain Festival to celebrate mountains' significance on planet earth: Devcom

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) is proud to announce the 14th edition of Pakistan Mountain Festival, the annual flagship event to celebrate mountains significance for life on the planet earth. It is world's largest event dedicated to mainstreaming the challenges facing Pakistan's mountainous regions and celebrating the vibrant cultures, heritage, and unique products of mountain communities. Scheduled to commence on November 27, this year's two-week festival will open with a live painting session by students at the Punjab Arts Council in Rawalpindi, showcasing the artistic reflections of young people on mountain heritage, landscapes and environmental issues, said Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director and the founder of the Pakistan Mountain Festival Munir Ahmed while talking to this scribe on Saturday.

Each year, the Pakistan Mountain Festival marks International Mountain Day (December 11) by bringing together stakeholders, artists, environmental advocates, cultural enthusiasts, and the public to focus on mountain conservation, sustainable development, and community empowerment. The event serves as a dynamic platform where mountain communities can connect with a larger audience,

Kashmir's Strategic Role Highlighted in CISS-AJK's Book Talk with Dr. Jaspal

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Centre for International Strategic Studies, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (CISS-AJK), hosted a compelling book talk featuring Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, a prominent academic and author. Dr. Jaspal presented his latest work, Nuclear Arms Control in South Asia: Politics, Posture, and Practices, in a scholarly session focused on advancing the understanding of nuclear dynamics within South Asia.

The event commenced with Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja,

Executive Director of CISS-AJK, and her research team welcoming Dr. Jaspal and distinguished guests to the CISS-AJK premises. In his address, Dr. Jaspal introduced key themes from his book, emphasizing its divergence from traditional historical analyses. Instead, his work offers fresh insights into nuclear arms control, aiming to broaden research perspectives on South Asian nuclear policies and practices.

The event underscored CISS-AJK's commitment to fostering dialogue on pressing security

concerns, aligning with its mission to contribute to policy development aimed at ensuring regional peace and stability. As part of CISS-AJK's ongoing academic initiatives, the talk attracted a significant audience, including students, researchers, academia dignitaries, and civil administration representatives.

Following Dr. Jaspal's presentation, an engaging question-and-answer session allowed participants to delve deeper into the issues raised in the book, enhancing their understanding through direct engagement with the distin-



guished scholar.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja

expressed gratitude to Dr. Jaspal for his insightful presentation and presented him with

a commemorative souvenir. She also extended thanks to all attendees for their contri-

butions, which were instrumental in making the event a resounding success.

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Ethiopia's Climate Model for COP29

As world leaders prepare for COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, addressing climate change has never been more urgent. With climate finance, renewable energy expansion, and sustainable development, COP29 is a vital platform for nations to take meaningful steps toward a resilient, sustainable future. Among these nations, Ethiopia stands out with its ambitious Green Legacy Initiative (GLI), a transformative reforestation project demonstrating how collective action can combat climate change.

Launched in 2019 under Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's leadership, Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative is a nationwide effort to restore degraded landscapes, counter deforestation, and build a climate-resilient economy. With over 25 billion trees planted, Ethiopia has set a powerful example for global action. The initiative not only addresses local environmental challenges, such as drought and soil degradation, but also aligns with the broader objectives of COP29. As Ethiopia shares its journey at COP29, the Green Legacy Initiative offers a model for nations striving for sustainable, climate-resilient economies.

With a population of 120 million, Ethiopia faces significant environmental challenges and is highly vulnerable to climate-related hazards like drought, floods, and soil erosion. Climate change has affected rain-fed agriculture, water resources, and food security, vital sectors for millions. The high poverty rate and dependency on climate-sensitive

sectors make Ethiopia's environment and economy tightly linked, increasing vulnerability. Recognizing these issues, Ethiopia has adopted proactive climate policies, including the 2011 Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy. The Green Legacy Initiative, a central part of the CRGE, set an ambitious goal to plant 20 billion trees in four years and exceeded it, with 25 billion seedlings planted by mobilizing 20 million Ethiopians. This community-driven success story shows the effectiveness of mass participation in reversing environmental degradation.

The Green Legacy Initiative targets multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Beyond reforestation, GLI has supported food security and economic development by planting 500 million fruit-bearing trees in 2022 alone, including avocados, mangoes, and papayas. These trees address local nutrition needs and generate economic value, aligning with SDG 2 on eradicating hunger. By promoting agroforestry and sustainable agricultural practices, Ethiopia takes a significant step toward self-sufficiency.

Environmental gains from the GLI cannot be overstated. Ethiopia's forest cover declined for decades, with an annual net loss of 72,000 hectares from 2000 to 2013. Deforestation and soil erosion have worsened droughts and

reduced agricultural productivity, deepening poverty. The Green Legacy Initiative supports SDG 15, focusing on life on land, with reforestation efforts that enhance soil fertility, improve water retention, and reduce desertification. These actions boost Ethiopia's climate resilience and exemplify solutions for other vulnerable nations.

At COP29, Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative will demonstrate the power of large-scale reforestation in combating climate impacts. The second phase of GLI, launched in 2024 with a goal of planting 7.5 billion trees, highlights Ethiopia's ongoing commitment to sustainability. With a plan for 25 billion more seedlings over the next four years, Ethiopia's initiative underscores dedication to reforestation and community engagement. By sharing its successes and strategies, Ethiopia offers a valuable model for countries addressing deforestation, biodiversity loss, and climate challenges.

The Green Legacy Initiative's social and economic benefits further demonstrate its impact. Reforestation efforts have revitalized Ethiopia's rural communities, creating jobs, especially for women and youth. For many low-income families, these jobs provide essential income, reducing poverty and strengthening community bonds. This national campaign has also fostered unity, with

millions participating in tree planting and environmental care.

As the world gathers at COP29, Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative shows the potential of community-driven climate action. Ethiopia's achievements in reforestation and ecosystem restoration are remarkable, especially given limited resources and environmental challenges. The initiative underscores the power of grassroots mobilization and serves as a call for global leaders to prioritize sustainable development.

In a global climate context marked by inequality, where wealthy nations lead clean energy efforts while developing countries face the worst impacts, Ethiopia's example is crucial. The Green Legacy Initiative illustrates that climate resilience is possible for all, even resource-limited nations. It reminds us that with vision, community involvement, and political will, countries can make meaningful progress in climate action.

Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative is more than an environmental campaign; it's a testament to Ethiopia's leadership in sustainable development and climate action. As Ethiopia steps onto the global stage at COP29, it brings a message of resilience, hope, and the transformative potential of collective action. The Green Legacy Initiative provides a roadmap for the world, showing that a greener, sustainable future is within reach.

The writer is an academician with a strong perspective on climate issues, culture diplomacy, and development. He can be reached at msaeedyousafzai@gmail.com

Analysis



Muhammad Saeed Yousafzai

Climate change action plan, launch regional climate fund

Member countries of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program have endorsed a new Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) and launched the CAREC Climate and Sustainability Project Preparatory Fund (CSPPF) to strengthen regional collaboration on climate resilience, low-carbon growth, and sustainable development.

According to ADB press release received here, the endorsement took place at the 23rd CAREC Ministerial Conference held in Astana.

Ministers also endorsed the Midterm Review of the CAREC 2030 Strategy, which recommended reinvigorating regional cooperation and enhancing operations toward climate-smart development and regional public goods, among others.

"The approval of the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan and the establishment of the Climate and Sustainability Project Preparatory Fund are significant milestones in our collective efforts to address climate change," said Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Masatsugu Asakawa, who delivered a keynote address at the conference.

"By working together, we can build resilient infrastructure, develop early warning systems, and create a greener future powered by renewable energy," Asakawa said.

The CAREC Program is a partnership of countries in Central Asia, the Caucasus, South Asia, and East Asia, and development partners aiming to promote sustainable development through regional cooperation.

It facilitates practical, results-based regional projects and policy initiatives to accelerate economic growth and reduce poverty in the region. ADB hosts the CAREC Secretariat.

The CCAP, spanning from 2025 to 2027, prioritizes initiatives to implement the CAREC Climate Change Vision. It focuses on four main areas to tackle climate challenges in the region.

It aims to help countries better prepare for and respond to climate risks; enhance the water-energy-food nexus; promote low-carbon growth by reducing emissions and expanding renewable energy; and create a CAREC climate platform.

The CSPPF will assist CAREC countries in developing bankable regional climate projects aligned with their commitments under the Paris Agreement.

ADB also signed fund contribution agreements with the Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Korea, generating a total of \$5 million initial funding for CSPPF.

During his visit to Kazakhstan, Asakawa met with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to discuss ongoing cooperation and future initiatives with ADB.

He will also participate in a ceremony celebrating 30 years of partnership between ADB and Kazakhstan and witness the signing of a loan agreement to reconstruct 208 kilometers of road in central Kazakhstan.

Since Kazakhstan joined ADB in 1994, the bank has committed around \$7 billion in support to the country through loans, grants, and technical assistance for both public and private sector development projects and initiatives.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

My Algerian Experience, a dream come true - II

I was happy to learn that the government in Algeria is providing all the care & treatment to the patients along with excellent facilities for diagnosis. The patient organization, Hemophilia association of Algeria is working extremely well under its President Latifa Lahmene, herself a patient. Latifa is very passionate about increasing education & awareness of hemophilia & other bleeding disorders and has special focus on Women & Girls with Bleeding Disorders.

Exploring the Casbah: Visiting the Casbah was like unwrapping a gift of history & culture. As I wandered through its narrow, winding streets, listening to the young & very knowledgeable guide. Farah, I'm introduced to the architectural gems around and details of history, especially the revolution. The walls have intricate mosaics & the wooden doors are beautifully carved telling stories of centuries past. Locals sit outside their homes, sipping mint tea and exchanging laughter & working on handi-

crafts. Shops, eateries & bakeries provide a beautiful mix of colour. The sea looks stunning with the contrast of white-washed buildings. Farah proudly shares stories of her heritage. The people are amazing, very friendly, wanting to know where I am from & offering me food & drinks.

We stop at a small café, le repere, famous for its seafood cuisine. It has traditional architecture & décor, and the fresh local fish cooked with local ingredients provides an amazing culinary experience. A bustling and a vibrant place

Martyrs Memorial
A prominent landmark that commemorates those who died during the Algerian War of Independence.

La Grande Poste: Post office
An architectural gem worth visiting for its stunning facade.

The Corniche
I stroll along the waterfront enjoying the people & the soft, saltish breeze. Pass by

Jardin d'Essai, a botanical garden filled with exotic plants and trees, no time to visit on this short trip!

Deglet Nour, The Queen of all dates

How can I forget to mention these dates? Their softness & honey-like taste as they melt in your mouth distinguishes them from all other dates I have had before & makes them the best of all!

Dinner at Aurassi Hotel

I enjoy the traditional dinner of Bourek, Chorba with crusty bread, followed by Couscous and a meat & vegetable stew, flavoured with spices & herbs. The lovely Makroud as the dessert & finally the very sweet mint tea to complete the dinner. The smell & the flavours linger on in my memory!

The Night view
As the sun sets, the lights illuminate the area around the sea and on the hills, like thousands of stars!

Leaving Algiers

As I travel back, I reflect on my short visit. Algiers is a city of contrasts, where ancient history meets vibrant modernity. Its warmth, beauty, and rich culture lingers in my mind, leaving me eager to come back to explore it more!

Analysis



Dr. Tahira Zafar

Pakistan's fate in Trump's win

Shoaib Malak

The world looks with sharp eyes to the US election 2024. As it was the deciding factor to up and down the world orders and to positioning the states. This was all just to balance the foreign policies. This turn and return was more than an act of electing and selecting the president of the state. As a day before, the displaying of the results lifts trump's to glorious heights. As, he has clinched the historic victory to become the 45th president of the United States of America. However, it was like a U-turn for Pakistan and beyond.

In past times, Pakistan remained an active player of the USA, due to its influential roles in fostering global trade, jointly standing on countering the multiple crisis on shared goals. And more in countering the terrorism and terrorist bodies within and out of the region.

In light of Trump's return. Historically, Trump's past tenure has bilaterally dealt with Pakistan on multiple fronts, but his motives for combating terrorism to sustain global peace remain utmost notion. Simultaneously, when it comes to the idea of multilateralism, then at times, Trump's interests are too bound with one self. In terms of global trading, sustaining the economic zones and doing more because of mutual cooperation. But again,

Trump's comeback to white house has put millions in delusions whether his victory can emerge as hope or misery for Pakistan.

Vividly, it is an approachable understanding of the whole scenario, As Donald Trump has remained self centered mind on America first approach. Where, largely, he merely focused on Americans, and then pushed to translate the multiple policies and interests to transparent democracy, peaceful coexistence and more on reaching the fast demanding world.

Ironically, Trump's win can be proven as a setback to Pakistan. In terms of pak china relations. China is fastly growing power on all fronts. As, it is a very stinging challenge for Trump to confront it. So, ultimately, it can hinder the friendly relations of Pakistan with China.

While on the other hand. India has always remained behind in search of putting blocks in the way of Pakistan. It remains the innermost diplomatic player of the USA, which can be seen from far sight as an attacker of it. So more or less, the USA's support to India is like a bedrock on Pakistan's development. It's all due, India's support to Afghanistan in providing military arms and troops, which allows Taliban to fight gallantly with Pakistan.

Therefore, Trump's presidency will significantly focus on the wellbeing of the Americans first, rather than deepening into global dialogues either in politics or economics. (cadetshoaib96@gmail.com)

"Family Ties and Genetic Risks: Understanding the Health Impact of Consanguineous Marriages in Pakistan"

In Pakistan, family bonds extend to marriage practices, where marrying within the family, or consanguineous marriages, is a cultural norm. However, this practice carries a hidden health risk that often goes unrecognized: marrying a close relative can increase the chances of genetic disorders in children. When relatives marry, they share a higher likelihood of passing down certain genetic prob-

lems, which can lead to serious health conditions. In Pakistan, around 75% of all marriages are within the family, mostly between cousins. This is a major reason why genetic disorders are common in the country.

Preventing genetic disorders doesn't mean ending traditional marriage practices but involves raising awareness and offering families better options to protect their children's health. Genetic counseling, where

health experts can help people understand their genetic risks, can be a great tool. Genetic screening tests can identify carriers of risky genes, giving individuals and couples valuable information about the likelihood of passing on certain genetic conditions. When people know their genetic status, they can make more informed decisions about marriage and family planning.

Genetic counseling provides guidance, helping families understand how

these conditions work, what their risks are, and what options they have. A counselor can discuss family planning options, including prenatal tests, which can detect many genetic disorders early in pregnancy. This support can be especially helpful in communities with high rates of family marriages, where people may be unaware of these issues.

While consanguineous marriages are a valued tradition, integrating health awareness into these practices

can improve outcomes for future generations. By promoting genetic screening and counseling as an accessible, culturally respectful service, Pakistan can help families make informed decisions without abandoning their traditions.

Encouragingly, increased awareness about genetic risks is slowly changing public attitudes toward consanguinity. Younger generations, who have more access to health information, are

increasingly aware of the importance of genetic health. By continuing to build awareness, providing access to genetic services, and respecting cultural values, Pakistan can ensure a healthier future while preserving cherished family bonds.

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Senator Zehri unveils plans for human rights policy framework to support laborers

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Senate Committee on Human Rights Chairperson Samina Mumtaz Zehri has announced plans to create a comprehensive policy framework aimed at addressing human rights issues, particularly those impacting laborers.

The committee will collaborate with various stakeholders to formulate this

framework, which will be presented to both the prime minister and the chief minister of the province.

Senator Zehri also called on the management of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) to share insights from the upcoming Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) to elevate these critical issues on national agenda, stressing the importance of addressing human rights,

climate change, and other urgent issues, stating that while the problems are well-known, it was now time to focus on finding solutions.

In a panel discussion titled 'Socio-Climatic Compliance for Resilience of Labour and Industry', the senator said she had been actively advocating for workers' rights in Balochistan, a region rich in natural resources.

Federico Santos Azcarate, Labour

Issues Expert, from Washington DC said the challenges faced by workers in extreme heat conditions underscore a critical choice between prioritizing health and safety versus maintaining profits. Recent observations during significant flooding emphasize the importance of making decisions that prioritize the well-being of employees and communities.

Cambodia, he said, has recently experienced a concerning increase in heat waves, with 2024 marking the highest average temperatures recorded in 170 years.

Dr Shafiqat Munir, Deputy Executive Director SDPI and author of the Socially and Environmentally Compliant Brick-Kiln Framework (SECBKF) called upon brick kiln owners and buyers of bricks to implement the Framework to protect labour through compliance on social

and labour standards and environmental standards.

Senior Adviser in the construction industry Ikram Rasheed stated that Pakistan produced 60 billion bricks annually, supported by 18,000 brick kilns.



ILF Day 2 Celebrates Evolved Political dynamics, Cultural Discourse, and Role of Media



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The second day of the 10th Islamabad Literature Festival (ILF), in collaboration with Getz Pharma (Title Sponsor), and NEO Paints (Gold Sponsor), displayed a powerful lineup of book launches, panel discussions, poetry sessions, and film screenings under the theme "Words Change Mindsets." Attended by prominent authors, poets, scholars, and cultural icons, the festival celebrated the transformative power of literature, art, and dialogue.

The highlight of the day was the screening of Umro Ayyar: A New Beginning, a cinematic

adaptation of classic folklore, which captivated the audience with its fresh and imaginative storytelling.

The day comprised multiple engaging book launches. Tareekh Ki Azeem Feminist Auratein by Naeem Mirza and Kishwar Naheed opened the lineup, with a discussion led by moderator Sameena Nazir. In another compelling launch, Another Story of the Bad Woman by Kishwar Naheed brought together Kathy Gannon, Nadia Tahir, Arshad Waheed, Iona Yusuf, and Safer Awan, moderated by Asma Mansoor, to explore bold narratives challenging societal norms. Awaiz

Khan In the Shadows of Love was read and discussed by Shaza Khan, while What More Could She Possibly Want? by Ayesha Husain sparked a thoughtful conversation between the author and Sonia Irum. Shafiqat Nagma's Saat Janam, discussed with Arshad Mahmood Nashad and Asghar Nadeem Syed, moderated by Hameed Shahid. Miltay Hain August Main by Inaam Nadeem featured a dialogue with Hameed Shahid. Mere Jinn Nikal Gaye by Hamid Ateeq Sarwar featured insights from Sarwar Sharif Awan, Harris Khaliq, and Quratul-Ain Haider, with Sultan Nasir moderating. Bhadoon by



Madiha Arsalan saw a discussion with Ismaa Sa'adat, moderated by Sara Ali, while Safdar Rasheed's Kahani aik nazm ki, exploring T. S. Eliot's The Waste Land, was discussed with Rashid Saleem.

Iftikhar Arif, paying tribute to the departed scholars in Yaad-e-Raftagan, stated, "We wish to keep them living for us—their contributions are exemplary, but

most significantly their identification with the Tarruqi Pansand Tehreek is responsible for some of the greatest jewels adorning our literary skies."

Mushahid Hussain and Ikram Sehgal, in Pakistan Bangladesh Relations – A New Perspective, insisted on bridging the trust deficit between the two nations, "We need Bilateral relations with no visa or tariff – with

the natural assertion of Muslim identity in Bangladesh, we have a renewed vigor. Ground realities have changed, and time is right to break the artificial barriers."

Fateh Muhammad Malik, in Iqbal ka Paigham Daur-e-Hazir ke Naam, lamented the loss of learnings that Iqbal had so brilliantly encased in his poetry, while Walid Iqbal shared his

grandfather's letters to showcase the humane and philosophical perspective of the great scholar.

Moderated by Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, 'Only democracy can empower a nation with human rights' was the topic under debate in the session titled, The Issue of Rights – Empowering Citizens, with Peter Jacob, Farhatullah Babar, Romana Bashir, and Pritham Das Rathi.

Adventure enthusiasts exhibit talent at Ascend Athletics' rock-climbing event

Kiran Asim

A large number of young adventure lovers assembled at Jasmine Corner, Pir Sohawa, Islamabad on Saturday and showcased their talent at a thrilling rock climbing event.

The event was organized by Ascend Athletics, a US-based NGO focused on empowering Pakistani women through adventure sports.

The event highlighted the spirit of youth and celebrated the transformative power of outdoor sports, drawing participants from across the capital, Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan and other areas.

The event, held against the scenic backdrop of Islamabad's hills, celebrated both the thrill of rock climbing and the powerful impact of sports on women empowerment.

Under the direction of master

trainer Emily Cavanagh, participants faced various climbing challenges, pushing their limits and gaining confidence with every step. Emily led the event with the support of dedicated instructors Fareena and Kaneez Fatima, both experienced climbers who are helping to inspire a new generation of women adventurers in Pakistan.

Fareena, reflecting on the event, shared, "It's incredibly fulfilling to watch these young women challenge themselves and overcome fears. Rock climbing teaches resilience, and seeing these climbers realize their own strength is the best part of this work."

Kaneez Fatima said, "This isn't just a sport; it's a way for young women to see the world differently. Climbing empowers them to believe in themselves and to push past societal limits that may have been placed on them. I'm



proud to be part of this journey with Ascend."

Teenage two-time national rock climbing champion Faryal, who also attempted the rock, shared her experiences, saying, "Rock climbing changed my life, giving me confidence and strength I never knew I had. I hope my journey shows young girls that they, too, can excel in any field they choose.

It's not easy, but the rewards are worth every effort."

Karrar Haidri, Secretary of the Alpine Club of Pakistan, who was also present commended Ascend Athletics for promoting adventure sports among women. "This event is crucial in paving the way for women to explore new paths in Pakistan's sports culture. It not only promotes physical strength



but also builds mental resilience," he said. Ascend Athletics has been making significant strides in Gilgit-Baltistan and Skardu for the last two years by fostering confidence and independence among young women through adventure sports.

Emily Cavanagh emphasized

Ascend's broader vision, saying, "Our aim is to help women realize their potential, on and off the mountain. The strength they build here will carry forward into every area of their lives."

As the event concluded, participants were filled with a sense of achievement and camaraderie,

their spirits lifted by the sheer thrill of rock climbing. Ascend Athletics' rock climbing event not only provided a thrilling experience for adventure lovers but also reaffirmed the importance of empowering women to break barriers and reach new heights, both in sports and in society.

Northern Autumn: Part 1

Orange, the color of Autumn! Enough of watching films, I planned to witness it with bare eyes. For that I packed my luggage and booked a PIA for Gilgit the previous weekend. Luckily, the weather was sunny, and my flight didn't cancel since for Gilgit it was always a chance of coming home without boarding. However, it's a business loss, and I look forward for some other aircraft companies considering flying Gilgit.

Meanwhile, from the sky my eyes witnessed snow capped mountains, and coincidentally I was sitting on the left side, hence I watched the frozen Saiful-malok, and the celebrated Nanga Parbat wearing a golden cloudy crown, a rare sight.

It was an early morning flight, so

the aircraft landed around 08:30 am, welcomed by a bright beautiful northern morning. As soon as I got my luggage, I found the Shuttle car and went straight to Gilgit Serena Hotel. The road leading to my destinations was small but clean, with occasional shows of military quarters and guest houses. In less than 15 minutes I reached the hotel and checked into my room, after breakfast. The hotel landscapes are marvelous, from garden and also my room's balcony I could have a clear view of Rakaposhi, and other mountains. However, on this visit I found the service quality of the hotel declining, although for the benefit of society they hired some trainees but this drastically affected the quality, along with a serious hygienic factor; moreover I found the food portion obviously smaller than before. Whatever the reason is, I believe such

tactics can only ruin the reputation.

Well, the next day I commenced travelling further north towards Altit, a beautiful small village associated with 1,100 years of fort and the spicy tales of Rajas, moreover there is a small dwelling of the past there, where people still live as 1,200 years before. Crossing some historical points, like the legendary Old Silk Road and some major archeological rocks, along roadside trees turned golden, sending blessed bright lights. And for that I rented a car from the hotel with the craziest and double standard driver ever, who after dropping me at the hotel took the car to the party of his friends who boozed and threw it in the car.

Fortunately, I reached Altit at noon, where I had a 3 night's stay at Serena Altit Fort Residence, which is a beautiful hotel with amazing gardens that turned in the extraordinary orange with the coming of Autumn. The manager of the hotel Mr. Abbas is a very nice man there, who allotted the hotel's best room to me, the Executive Room in Ameen House. In the hotel they have 2 types of residence, one the heritage rooms belong to the royal family that lived there in the past and some newly constructed huts.

Since, it was 3 hour's drive, my muscles felt stiff and I took some rest in my cozy room, where I was treated

like the Rami of the house, here I found a personal touch in the service, the way of eyes and the genuine smiles. Further, it is a community hotel, where every worker is local, they cook local food, in local ways, which is also delicious, but the way they serve wearing smiles on faces and love make it makes it more delicious, I still remember the beautiful lady in the kitchen who served me with love and compassion breakfast every morning, homemade butter, freshly cooked bread with aromatic eggs cooked in to curries, in the café overlooking the Hunza River and the amazing mountains.

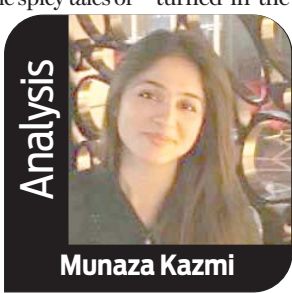
Besides, there's a fort that I mentioned before namely Altit Fort, where I went every evening for the walk, watching some fluffy sheep playing in the Royal Garden.

Next day I started for Khunjerab

National Park, as I changed my driver hence it was around 11:15 am, very late for travelling that far, because the travel distance is around 4 hours. The new driver was a gentleman, who called me Baji, this is a term we use in Pakistan for the utmost respect to a lady.

Khunjerab National Park is known for its majestic landscapes, crystal clear water channels, Ibex, Yaks and Snow Leopards, though, I visited Khunjerab earlier but my passion never fulfilled, and once again I said yes to the adventure ahead, even though I was feeling that am taking the risk, as you might know night travelling is always dangerous in mountains, leading to car crashes or turn turtle by a sudden show of wild animal on the highway or slippery turns. But I was going....

To Be Continued....



Analysis

Munaza Kazmi

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
93,291.68	92,520.48	
Day's High	Day's Low	
93,514.55	92,566.49	
Index Value	Change	
21,537,800,610	+771.20	
Percentage	Time	
+0.83%	8 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,072.39	-68.35	
Percentage	Time	
-0.84%	8 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
43,970.02	+240.68	
Percentage	Time	
+0.55%	8 Nov, 12:06 pm GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
39,500.37	+118.96	
Percentage	Time	
+0.30%	8 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.35	186.60
Bahrain Dinar	731.21	739.21
Canadian Dollar	200.05	202.45
China Yuan	38.58	38.98
Danish Krone	39.58	39.98
Euro	297.25	300.00
Hong Kong Dollar	35.37	35.72
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	895.85	905.35
Malaysian Ringgit	62.5	63.10
New Zealand \$	163.14	165.14
Norwegians Krone	24.78	25.08
Omani Riyal	715.66	724.16
Qatari Riyal	75.62	76.32
Saudi Riyal	73.65	74.20
Singapore Dollar	206.27	208.27
Swedish Korona	25.82	26.12
Swiss Franc	316.79	319.59
Thai Bhat	7.93	8.08
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	357.45	360.95
US Dollar	277.30	278.80

8th Pakistan Industrial Expo Commenced at Lahore Expo Center

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider on Saturday inaugurated the 8th Pakistan Industrial Expo at the Lahore Expo Centre, bringing together a distinguished array of academia and technology companies from various sectors of industry.

Organized by Everest International Expo Pvt Ltd, this year's expo aims to foster collaboration, innovation, and sustainable growth within Pakistan's industrial landscape.

In his inaugural address, Governor Sardar Saleem Haider highlighted the significance of the Pakistan Industrial Expo as a vital platform for accelerating industrial development, boosting trade, and strengthening global economic ties. "This expo stands as a testament to Pakistan's commitment to industrial progress and international cooperation," he remarked.

The event also saw the participation of prominent academic



figures. Dr. Qaiser Abbas, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sargodha; Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah, Vice Chancellor of the University of the Punjab; and Dr. Akif Anwar Chaudhry, Vice Chancellor of the University of Education, were in attendance. They stressed the importance of collaboration between academia and industry to foster research, innovation, and workforce development. Their presence underscored the growing connection between education and industry in Pakistan's economic development.

Mr. Fa Wenyan, CEO of Everest International Expo Pvt Ltd, addressed the attendees, thanking them for their continued support and expressing his excitement for the event.

"Our goal is to provide a dynamic platform for industry leaders, stakeholders, and innovators to connect, explore new technologies, and form strategic partnerships that will shape Pakistan's industrial future," said Mr. Fa Wenyan.

Meeting

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh in meeting with Park Ki Jin, Ambassador of Republic of Korea



Photo: PID

FRIA asks govt to raise tax base to strengthen tax-to-GDP ratio

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Ferozepur Road Industrial Association (FRIA) has advocated the need for raising the country's tax base so that tax-to-GDP ratio improves from current poor level.

FRIA senior vice chairman Shehbaz Aslam urged the trade officers to explore opportunities to diversify exports of goods and services in their respective areas, asking them to meet the challenges faced by Pakistan in European markets.

He said that country's major export markets did not see any significant growth in



importing goods from Pakistan in the financial. He also suggested the ministry to devise strategies for promotion of Pakistani products, calling upon trade officers to take advantage of opportunities offered by China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Punjab markets ordered to close by 8 PM

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday mandated that all markets close by 8:00 PM each day and remain shut on Sundays as part of efforts to address the intense smog affecting the city.

While issuing the order, Justice Shahid Karim noted that despite numerous hearings and calls for action, there has been a lack of effective measures to combat smog.

He expressed a desire to avoid issuing orders that cannot realistically be enforced.

This ruling to close markets came after various government departments presented performance reports on their efforts to mitigate smog before Justice Karim. The court instructed authorities to limit vehicle access to motorways and the Ring Road and to impose a complete ban on the entry of trucks and trailers into the city.

CCP recommends Govt to introduce competitive model in power sector

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has said that the state-owned enterprises (SOEs) extensive role in the transmission and distribution sectors, hinders power sector's development.

A report on the state of competition in power sector, released by the CCP, points out strong presence of SOEs and the resulting impact on competition within the power sector.

The report recommends the government to open the power market and enforce the model of Competitive Trading Bilateral Contract Market (CTBCM).

The CCP report recommends direct agreements between the power producing and selling companies for purchase and transmission. The Competition Commission report also suggests the end of in-between role of the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA).

The NEPRA had approved implementation of the CTBCM model in 2020.

The commission's report also recommends separation of power production, transmission and distribution.

"There is need to upgrade the outdated



power transmission system on emergency basis," according to report.

"The state-owned distribution companies have been in nine to 35 percent line losses and the only solution of line losses has been privatization of the distribution companies," report said. "More efficient distribution entities are bearing losses of the underperforming DISCOs," according to CCP report.

The report suggests that the buyers should enter in direct purchase agreements with the power generation plants.

The CCP also recommend instant shut-

down of outdated power plants to decrease the burden of capacity payment. It recommends implementation of the Transmission Line Policy 2015.

The competition commission also recommends inviting private sector to join the transmission infrastructure.

The CCP recommends privatization of the DISCOs to bring the line losses down.

At the report's launch, CCP Chairman Dr Kabir Ahmed Sidhu emphasized the critical role of a competitive power sector in driving economic growth and providing affordable energy to consumers.

Gold prices remain stagnant at Rs.278,800 per tola

Commerce Desk



ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold remained unchanged at Rs.278,800 on Saturday, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold and 10 gram 22 karat gold also remained unchanged at Rs.239,026 and Rs.219,107 respectively.

Likewise, the price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs. 3,300 and Rs. 2,829.21, respectively.

The price of gold in the international market also remained stagnant at \$2,683, the Association reported.

Pak-Malaysia agrees to renegotiate bilateral FTA in near future: Malaysian HC

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On Friday, the High Commissioner of Malaysia, Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan said that Malaysia and Pakistan have agreed to renegotiate the bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the renegotiation process will start soon. Pakistan's cuisine

The High Commissioner said that from Pakistan's side Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan will shortly participate in the dialogue process in this regard to renegotiate the bilateral FTA and there will be a also discussion between the two countries on

other economic and trade issues. He said this at an event hosted by the high Commission of Malaysia, Islamabad which was attended by more than 50 prominent Pakistani industry leaders and stakeholders.

The event was organized as a follow-up to the recent official visit of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Anwar Ibrahim to Pakistan in October 2024, with a particular focus on enhancing trade, investment, and business collaborations between the two countries.

The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) for Closer Economic and trade ties between Pakistan and Malaysia was signed on November

08, 2007 at Kuala Lumpur Malaysia and this Agreement is the 1st bilateral FTA between two brotherly Countries and members of OIC.

The Ambassador shared that the official visit of the Malaysian Prime Minister was very fruitful, resulting in two government-to-government and four business-to-business MOUs.

Additionally, Malaysia plans to import \$100 million worth of halal meat and 100,000 tonnes of Basmati rice from Pakistan.

The High Commissioner also highlighted the recent opening of a MATRADE office in Karachi to further facilitate business engage-

ment between both sides, and encouraged Pakistani business leaders to consider Malaysia as a gateway to the ASEAN region, which has a market of 680 million people.

During the ceremony, attendees provided valuable feedback on the current landscape of trade and investment between Malaysia and Pakistan, emphasizing the need for continued dialogue and collaboration to unlock potential for mutual benefits.

In the regional context, the Malaysian high commissioner highlighted the opportunities presented by ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations),



particularly Malaysia's geo-economic role as a gateway to the ASEAN market.

Pakistan had a brilliant past in the game of hockey, says Australian High Commission

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins has said that Pakistan has had a brilliant past in hockey. Pakistan has won every title in the world in this game and defeat every team in the world. I want that gold of Pakistan. Back away, these views were expressed by Neil Hawkins while talking to the media after visiting the Olympian Islahudin Hockey Academy.

He said that there are all facilities for the players in the academy, when Olympian Islahudin used to play in the field, Pakistan achieved numerous successes under his leadership and after his retirement, he is giving free training to the players in his academy, which is very good. He said that there are many hockey academies in Australia, there is a better sports infrastructure, but the situation in Pakistan is different, at this time, Pakistan hockey is going through a difficult period. At the level, the government has to play its role.



Olympian Islahudin said that Pakistan and Australia have done many feats in the field of hockey and in cricket, these two countries have shown their skills at the world level, Neil Hawkins, an Olympian. Islahudin said

that Neil Hawkins wants to promote the game of hockey in Pakistan. Islahudin said that he can take Pakistan hockey out of the difficult period but it needs to work with good intentions, it will take at least four years to get Paki-

stan back on its feet.

Earlier, the Australian Hockey Commission reached the hockey academy and was welcomed by the chairman of the academy, Olympian Islahudin, Olympian Ayaz Mehmood and the head coach of the academy, Olympian Syed Sameer Hussain. Neil Hawkins was presented with a bouquet by the academy management. He talked to the girls and boys players under training, they mingled with the academy kids, shaik hands with them and played hockey with them. Islahudin presented Neil Hawkins with a Sindhi cap and Ajrak, a symbol of Sindhi culture, while presenting a hockey stick as a souvenir. On this occasion, Mrs. Islahudin, Mrs. Sameer Hussain and Islahudin's daughter were also present, Academy Administrator Muhammad Aslam Khan, Haji Ghulam Muhammad, Coaches Sagheer Hussain, Syed Al Hasan, Wasif Raza, Asad Zaheer, Saeceda Khanum, Sunny and others. were also present.

Sumair Ahmad replaces Salman Naseer as PCB COO

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Saturday appointed Sumair Ahmad Syed as the new Chief Operating Officer (COO) after approval by the Board of Governors (BoG) in its 75th meeting at the National Cricket Academy (NCA), Gaddafi Stadium. Pakistan's cuisine

Sumair Ahmad has replaced Salman Naseer who has been re-designated as Advisor to Chairman PCB and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) department. Sumair Ahmad, a seasoned civil servant with an extensive administrative experience, most recently served as Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office. He assumes the Chief Operating Officer's role from Salman Naseer, who has been appointed as Advisor to the PCB Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) department. Salman began his tenure as the Chief Operating Officer and had previously indicated he would not seek a contract renewal in a similar role upon the completion of his five-year term in

February 2025.

Welcoming Sumair Ahmad and expressing gratitude for Salman Naseer's years of service, PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi said: "Sumair is an outstanding professional with proven administrative skills and deep industry knowledge. We are delighted to welcome him to the PCB family and are confident that under his leadership, we will continue to strengthen and improve our administrative structures, moving closer to our goal of becoming a model, high-performing organisation."

"Salman has been an exemplary leader at the Pakistan Cricket Board, making invaluable contributions during his tenure as the Chief Operating Officer. His experience and insights have made him an asset to the PCB. Given our plans to establish PSL as an independent entity and to expand the league with

two additional teams in 2026, we have appointed him as PSL Chief Executive Officer. He will also serve as Advisor to the PCB Chairman, ensuring his expertise continues to guide our strategic goals."

On his appointment, Sumair Ahmad said: "As a lifelong follower and supporter of Pakistan cricket, it is a profound honour for me to join this dynamic organisation as its Chief Operating Officer during these exciting and pivotal times. I am deeply grateful to the PCB Chairman and the Board of Governors for their trust and support. With the collaboration of my colleagues, I am eager to play a meaningful role here at PCB. This organisation holds tremendous potential and cricket serves as a unifying force for the people of Pakistan."

"During my tenure as Chief Operating Officer, I am committed to helping the Chairman bring his vision for Paki-

stan cricket to life. This vision centers on achieving success with our national teams, enhancing infrastructure, expanding opportunities for aspiring cricketers and ensuring good governance. I am excited to contribute to this journey and work towards making a lasting impact on the game that we all cherish."

Salman Naseer expressed gratitude and support for Sumair Ahmad, saying: "It has been an honour and a privilege to lead the PCB's management team as Chief Operating Officer. This journey has been deeply rewarding, as we collectively made significant progress and overcame various challenges. I am grateful to the PCB Chairman for his trust and to my colleagues for their support, without which our successes would not have been possible."

"I would also like to thank the Board of Governors for their guidance and look forward to contributing to Sumair's success at the PCB. With the experience and commitment he brings, I am confident that the PCB will continue to grow stronger and reach new heights."

Zone-III W dominate Zone-VI B in Touchme Trophy U-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-III Whites secured a convincing 7 wicket victory over Zone-VI Blues at KCCA Stadium in the Touchme Trophy U-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament.

The highlights of the days play was deadly bowling by Medium Pacer Abeer Jawed 5/24 and Right arm leg Spinner Hamza Salman 4/34.

Later, Zia Ahmed Siddiqui Presi-

dent Zone-VI give Medicam Man of the Match Award to Abeer Jawed of Zone-III Whites.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Medicam Group of Companies.

Scores in Brief:

Zone-VI Blues 133 all out in 23.1 overs. Sami ullah 57 10x4, Ahsan Ullah 30 4x4. Abeer Jawed (mf) 5/24, Hamza Salman (rlb) 4/34.



In reply Zone-III Whites 134/3 in 21 4 overs. Ahad 66 11x4 1x6 not out, Asim Shah 30 4x4.

Photo Caption:

Karachi: Zia Ahmed Siddiqui President Zone-VI given the Medicam Man of the Match Award to Abeer Jawed of Zone-III Whites.

ITF Pakistan J30 Ali Embroidery World Junior Tennis C'ship kicks off Pakistan's cuisine

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The ITF Pakistan J30 Ali Embroidery World Junior Tennis Championships 2024 commenced on Saturday at Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) Tennis Complex Islamabad.

The event brings together 47 junior players from around the globe, including 28 boys and 19 girls from countries such as Hong Kong, Japan, China, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Canada, Korea, Germany, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Maldives, and Singapore.

The tournament also features 28 Pakistani players, with 22 boys and 6 girls.

Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, President of the PTF welcomed all international participants, expressing his pleasure at hosting talented young athletes from across the world. He extended his best wishes to all competitors, reiterating



Pakistan's commitment to promoting tennis development at the junior level and strengthening international sports relations.

Col.zia ud din Tufail Secretary General PTF also welcomed all the players and wished them good luck for the competi-

tion. The results of qualifying 1st round are as under:

Boys Singles Qualifying 1st Round: Tetautada Kondo (JPN) bt Nabeel Ali Qayum (PAK) 7-5,6-4; Yota Nishikori (JPN) bt Hamza Rehmat (PAK) 6-0,6-0;

Seung Woo Han (KOR) bt Rayan Ahmad (PAK) 6-0,6-0; Yeonmu Jung (KOR) bt Inam Qadir 6-1,6-0;

Boys Singles Qualifying 2nd Round: Park Dohyun (KOR) bt Syed Mahd (PAK) 6-0,6-2; Seung woo Han (KOR) Andrew Kaavinda (SRI) 6-0,6-2; Yota Nishikori (JPN) bt Gwanmu Kim (KOR) 6-4,6-1; Youngchae Oh (KOR) bt Chanapat (THA) 6-4,6-3; Minwoo Kim (KOR) bt Taimur Ansari (PAK) 6-4,6-1; Patcharaphol Leekul (THA) bt Tetsutada Kondo (JPN) 6-1,6-4; Youngchae Oh (KOR) bt M. Yahya (PAK) 6-1, 6-1; Yeonmu Jung (KOR) bt Nevan Kannangara (SRI) 6-0,6-2; Zain Saeed Khalid (PAK) bt Bills Awais Janjua (PAK) 6-2,6-3

The third and final round of the qualifying matches will start on Sunday at 10:00am

The main draw will be played on Monday.

"Run through the Sand of Times"



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of United Arab Emirates Hamad Obaid Al-Zaabi, giving winning trophy of 5K Marathon winner, title "Run through the Sand of Times" in connection with UAE's National Day, at Diplomatic Enclave, in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of United Arab Emirates Hamad Obaid Al-Zaabi, and others stands on starting point of Marathon, title "Run through the Sand of Times" at Diplomatic Enclave, in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Participates take part 5K Marathon, title "Run through the Sand of Times" in connection with UAE's National Day, at Diplomatic Enclave, in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of United Arab Emirates Hamad Obaid Al-Zaabi, and others warm up before starting Marathon, title "Run through the Sand of Times" at Diplomatic Enclave, in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Participates take part 5K Marathon, title "Run through the Sand of Times" in connection with UAE's National Day, at Diplomatic Enclave, in the Federal Capital.



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Photos: Online by Sultan Bashir

Pakistan U19 team reach Dubai for Tri-Nation Series, Asia Cup Pakistan's cuisine

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan U-19 cricket has reached Dubai to feature in the Tri-Nation Series and Asia Cup.

According to details, led by Saad Baig, the Pakistan team will participate in the Tri-Nation series to be played from November 13 to 26, and the eight-nation Asia Cup from November 29 to December 8.

The Pakistan U-19 cricket team players will take part in a training session at the ICC Cricket Academy, Dubai on Sunday from 2pm to 1:30pm local time.

The Pakistan U-19 cricket team will play their first match in the tri-nation series against the host team UAE on November 13 at the ICC Academy.

Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photograph with the 51st Common Training Programme batch of probationary officers of the Information Service of Pakistan at the Prime Minister's Office, joined by Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Federal Secretary Ms. Ambreen Jan.



Photo: PID

PM reaffirms govt's commitment to supporting state media apparatus

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday reiterated government's commitment to supporting the state media apparatus, underscoring its importance in promoting national unity and educating citizens on key government initiatives.

A batch of probationary officers of the 51st Common Training Programme from the Information Service of Pakistan, who recently completed their specialized training and were preparing to join their respective posts, met with the prime minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

The prime minister warmly welcomed the officers and

acknowledged the critical role that information officers play in bridging the gap between the government and the public, ensuring transparency, and fostering trust.

He emphasized the importance of effective communication, particularly in today's rapidly evolving media landscape, and encouraged the officers to approach their

responsibilities with integrity, professionalism, and a strong commitment to public welfare.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Ambreen Jan were also present on the occasion, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister also

encouraged the probationary officers to be proactive in harnessing modern communication tools to enhance meaningful engagement with the public.

The officers shared insights into their training and experiences, expressing their eagerness to contribute to the nation's progress and development.

KP CM Gandapur refrains from giving protest date at PTI's Swabi rally

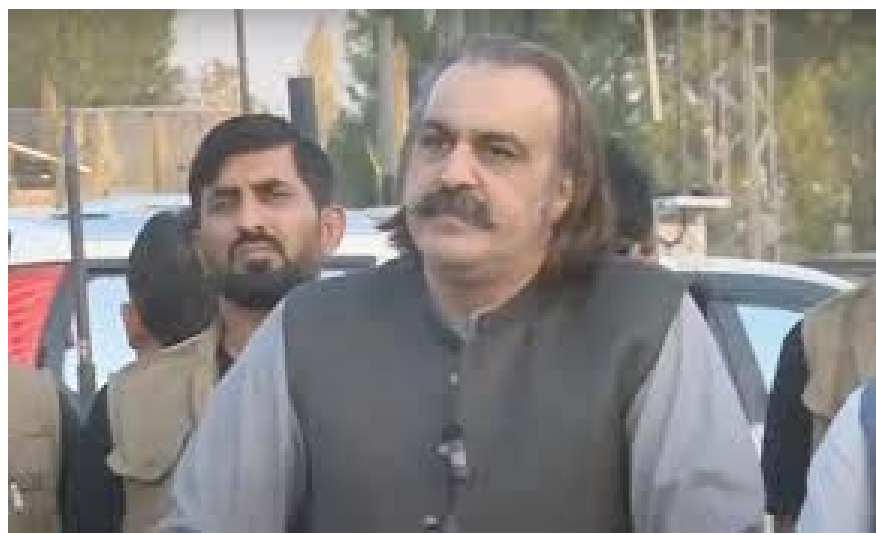
Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: PTI and SIC to file a petition against the 26th Constitutional Amendment next week

PTI protest not against any constitution, says PTI's information secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram

Gohar advises 'few people' to not delete social media posts after Donald Trump's victory in the US elections

Incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan would give a "protest call" in November (this month), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said on Saturday as he refrained from giving a final date.



"The PTI supporters will wait for Khan's final call," he said in his address to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supporters at the Swabi rally - 'Awami Jirga'.

He asked his supporters to get ready for the protest and they would not return home without the PTI founder's release.

"We have only one option to sustain pressure or fight against the oppression," Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said as he slammed the crackdown on the PTI supporters. "Even, if we die, we will take rest after getting him released," he said.

While sharing the party founder's message, Gandapur stated that Khan would give a call for protest in November (this month). The KP chief minister vowed that the PTI supporters would wait for Khan's "final call".

Pakistan Navy assumes guard duties at mausoleum of Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal



Bureau Report

LAHORE: An impressive Change of Guard Ceremony was held at the mausoleum of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal as the nation celebrated the 147th birth anniversary of Mufakkir-e-Pakistan, the visionary behind the ideology of an independent Muslim state in the subcontinent.

A smartly attired contingent of the Pakistan Navy took over guard duties from the Pakistan Rangers (Punjab). Commander Central Punjab, Pakistan Navy, Rear Admiral Azhar Mahmood graced the occasion as

the Chief Guest and paid homage to the National Poet.

Commander Central Punjab laid a floral wreath at the mausoleum on behalf of the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, as well as Officers, Sailors, and Navy Civilians of the Pakistan Navy, and offered Fateha. The Chief Guest also recorded his remarks in the visitor's book, paying rich tribute to the great poet and philosopher.

The ceremony was attended by dignitaries, members of the media, and a large number of the general public.

ECP releases provisional cause list, Fawad to face contempt charges

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Saturday has issued its provisional cause list for November 20, which includes several high-profile cases, including contempt proceedings against former Federal Minister Fawad Chaudhry. Pakistan's cuisine

According to the provisional cause list, Fawad Chaudhry is scheduled to be indicted on charges of disrespecting the Election Commission and its chief.

The contempt case against PTI's founding chairman will be heard on November 21 for the recording of evidence in a case involving alleged disrespect towards the commission and its chief.

Additionally, the Election Commission has scheduled a hearing on November 21 for 48 political parties, including Sunni Ittehad Council and Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen, for failing to submit their annual consolidated statements of assets and liabilities for 2023-24. Notices have already been issued.

Rana Tanveer reviews SME development strategy



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain Saturday made a review of the proposed action plan to be prepared by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) as per vision of the prime minister of Pakistan.

The meeting, held in this regard here at SMEDA premises, was also attended by Secretary Industries and Production Saif Anjum and senior management team of SMEDA. Socrat Aman Rana, CEO SMEDA, gave a detailed presentation on this occasion to apprise the minister about interventions required to be made at government level for providing SMEs with necessary support for easy and enhanced financing, marketing, technology upgradation, subcontracting and women entrepreneurship development.

Attack on ex-CJP Faez Isa: 23 overseas Pakistanis names put on PCL

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Directorate General of Immigration and Passports has placed 23 overseas Pakistanis' names in the Passport Control List (PCL) over their alleged involvement in an attack on former CJP Qazi Faez Isa's vehicle in London.

According to the sources, the authorities placed the names of Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Malaika Bukhari—who traveled abroad for cancer treatment of her sister—, Shayan Ali, Sadia Fahim, Fahim Gulzar, Maheen Faisal, Sidra Tariq, and others allegedly involved in London protests.

The others who have been placed in the PCL included Hiba Tariq, Waqas Chauhan, Mohsin Haider, Zameer Akram, Sardar Taimur, Parvaiz Ali, Rukhsana Kausar, Muhammad Jameel,

Mehran Habib, Zawa Ahmad, Rehman Anwar, Muhammad Sadiq, Khadija Kashif, Muhammad Naveed Afzal, Shahzad Qureshi, Sulaiman Ali Shah and Bilal Anwar.

The sources said that the authorities have informed the British officials, seeking the extradition of those placed in the PCL and upon return to Pakistan, these individuals will face arrest and investigation.

Gillani urges nation to renew pledge to follow Iqbal's teachings for better Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Acting President, Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani urged the nation to renew its commitment to follow the teaching of Allama Iqbal, the ideological founder of Pakistan, and work for the unity, peace and prosperity of Pakistan.

In his message on the Birth Anniversary of Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal (November 9th), the Acting President called for embodying Allama's ideals amid continued strides for building a better future for the country.

"On this Day, we pay tribute to the services and legacy of Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Pakistan's national



poet, whose vision and thoughts kindled the spirit of independence among Muslims of the Subcontinent. A philosopher of the East, Iqbal's ideas paved the way for the creation of an independent country.

His address at the annual session of the All-India Muslim League in 1930 was an interpretation of the demand of Muslims to safeguard their rights," Gillani said.

Dr Iqbal's work united the Muslims of the Subcontinent and his thoughts and speeches motivated them to wage a struggle to achieve a separate country for them, he said.

Iqbal, he said championed Muslim rights and political representation in British India, laying the groundwork for creating an independent homeland for the Muslims of the Subcontinent.